



Thursday, February 25, 2010

Dear Neighbors,

### **Please Send Your Civic Club Updates**

To better serve you, please send in your neighborhood civic club, civic association and homeowners association members' latest contact information. Reply to this newsletter or send an email to [districta@cityofhouston.net](mailto:districta@cityofhouston.net) with the following information:

- ★ Neighborhood organization name.
- ★ Current board members with contact information, such as a phone number and email address.
- ★ Date, location and time of neighborhood meetings.

### **CIP Improvements in District A**

**District A Council Member Brenda Stardig** hosted a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) meeting Thursday, February 18, 2010. With roughly 100 people in attendance, City Departments gave updates on District A Capital Improvement Projects including Neighborhood Street Reconstruction (NSR) projects, water line replacement projects and park improvements.

The following list includes projects in District A with 2010 construction end dates:

- ★ **NSR 462:** Streets include Azaleale, Enid and Sleepyvale. Project provides the engineering and construction for paving curbs, gutters, sidewalks, street lighting and underground utilities.
- ★ **Long Point Intersection at Blalock:** This project will provide for the reconstruction of Long Point in multiple phases. Existing right-of-way will impact pavement width, esplanade width and sidewalks. Phases include the redesign of intersections at Antoine, Wirt, Pech, Blalock and Bingle.
- ★ **Improvements at White Oak WWTP:** This project provides for the construction of electrical, mechanical and piping improvements at various wastewater treatment facilities throughout the City.
- ★ **Port West Lift Station:** This project is for the rehabilitation or replacement of wastewater lift stations throughout the city to provide reliable operations.
- ★ **Neighborhood Sanitary Sewer System Improvements:** Project includes replacement and renewal of neighborhood sewers and facilities to improve customer service.
- ★ **Water Line Replacement:** Project areas include Mangum Manor-South, Timber Oaks-West, Forest West and Cole Creek Manor. This project provides for the design and construction of replacement distribution mains and upgrades small mains which have documented maintenance problems.
- ★ **Mill and Overlay:** Project includes mill and overlay on Antoine from I-10 to US 290.

District A citizens have currently submitted 112 CIP requests for 2010. For those interested in submitting a CIP Citizen Request Form online visit [https://webintake.houstontx.gov/web\\_intake/Controller](https://webintake.houstontx.gov/web_intake/Controller) or call 3-1-1 and make a CIP request.

Visit [www.houstontx.gov/cip/index.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/cip/index.html) for more information and specific details of the CIP projects in your area.

### **Ring Library Renovations**

Renovations will begin this month on Ring Library located at 8835 Long Point. As a partnership with the Houston Public Library Foundation, the project provides much-needed meeting space and legally-required accessibility upgrades.

Improvements include a new meeting room which can accommodate 50 people, ADA accessibility upgrades to the entrance, restrooms, paths of travel and a new exterior of the building constructed from glass. The debut of the completed project is scheduled for the beginning of spring.

### **Korean Community Center**

**Council Member Brenda Stardig** recently met with Korean Community Leaders in District A to learn more about grassroots efforts of the Korean Community.



*(Pictured from left to right on back row: Ms. Sook Kim; Ms. Jennifer Choi; Dr. Kyoo Yung Song; Mr. Randy Sim; Ms. Gigi Lee, Korean American Chamber of Commerce, President; Mr. Jai Byun; Ms. Chung.*

*Front row: Mr. Steve Cho, Korean Community Center, Chairman; CM Brenda Stardig; Mr. Eun Hyeok Chung, Korean Community Center, Executive Director)*

The Houston Korean Community Center offers programs such as teaching Korean to the public, offering family counseling and hosting community seminars. The programs have a positive impact on the Spring Branch area and District A looks forward to the debut of the renovated Korean Community Center later this year.



## **Spring Branch ISD Honored with Prestigious Awards**

The Texas Association of Partners in Education (TAPE) honored two Spring Branch Independent School District partners at the annual state partnership awards ceremony on January 26<sup>th</sup> in Austin.

- ★ The **Good Neighbor Program** won the Crystal Award, the highest honor, in the Partnership Innovation category for a district partnership program that functions outside the box and introduces new ways to engage partners or grow a partnership program.
- ★ The **Northbrook High School Childress Foundation Academy** won the Gold Award in the Service Learning category for a school program that provides students with service learning opportunities that have a positive impact on student achievement and the community.

Visit [www.springbranchisd.com](http://www.springbranchisd.com) for more information about Spring Branch ISD.

## **Spring Branch Management District Street Signs**

**Council Member Brenda Stardig** attended a Spring Branch Management District (SBMD) sign unveiling Tuesday, February 16, 2010. According to the SBMD, the Spring Branch area will begin to see new street signs including 285 large intersection signs and 425 smaller pole signs for a total of 710 new street signs.



*(Picture taken at intersection of Gessner Road and Clay Road)*

The new signs will help identify Spring Branch as an opportunity rich environment for business and an exceptional place to live, work and raise a family.

Visit [www.sbmd.org](http://www.sbmd.org) for more information about the Spring Branch Management District.

## Northwest Crime Alert

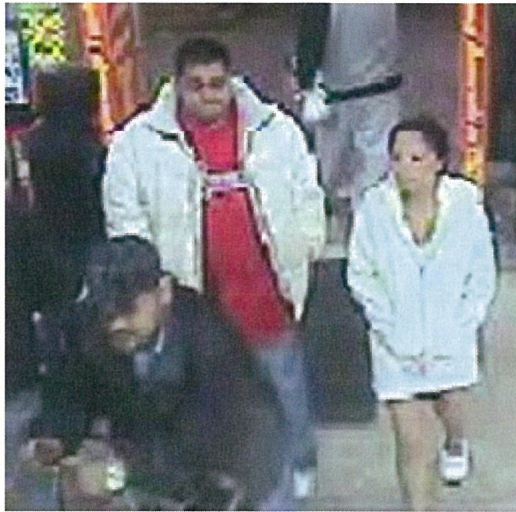
*Positive Interaction Program (PIP) Coordinators, Officers C. Englehardt and J.J. Mounsey, have released the below information on the Northwest Crime Alert Network (NW-CAN) for residents to look for suspicious persons in their area.*

*To sign up for the NW-CAN, an informative newsletter for northwest residents regarding crime, please email [Christopher.Englehardt@cityofhouston.net](mailto:Christopher.Englehardt@cityofhouston.net).*

### **Aggravated Robbery (Police Impersonator)**

#### **8217 Long Point**

HPD Case # 176294209 & 174116409



The Houston Police Department is seeking your help to identify three men who posed as police officers, then beat, and robbed a business owner in northwest Houston on December 2, 2009.

On Wednesday December 2nd at around noon a businessman was leaving one of his businesses in the 8200 block of Long Point when he was approached by three Hispanic males. They identified themselves as police officers, with one displaying a gold badge. They told him they needed to ask him some questions so they escorted him to a gray midsize car and told him to get in. Once in the car, two of the suspects pulled out guns and told him they were not police officers but they were going to rob him. They drove him to another one of his businesses and forced him to the front door at gunpoint. When the victim opened the door of the building the alarm went off and startled the suspects. The victim took that opportunity to run from them but he did not get very far before he was caught and beaten by them. The suspects took the victim's wallet, credit cards and cell phone, leaving him with extensive head injuries. Shortly after the robbery two Hispanic males and a Hispanic female were caught on a surveillance camera at a grocery store using one of the victim's credit cards.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$5,000 for any information called in to the **713) 222-8477(TIPS)** hotline or submitted online at [www.crime-stoppers.org](http://www.crime-stoppers.org) that leads to the identification, charging or arrest of the any of the suspects in this case. Tips can also be sent by text message - Text **TIP610** plus your tip to **CRIMES (274637)**. All tipsters remain anonymous.

For more information call P.I.P. Coordinators, Officers C. Englehardt or J.J. Mounsey, at the 832) 394-0100 or contact HPD Sergeant M. McStravick at 713) 308-3600.



## **HPD Tips to Prevent Home Burglary**

*Council Member Brenda Stardig encourages everyone to be vigilant about their safety. HPD released the statement below regarding home burglary prevention.*

When traveling, keep your home looking lived-in by having grass cut, mail and newspapers picked up and lights turned on and off.

Keep a current inventory of all your valuables. Include photos or video, descriptions, and serial numbers of all electronic equipment. Engrave valuables with your Texas driver license number (preceded by the letters "TX"). In the event your home is burglarized, this will help police identify the property if it is recovered. Engraving property can also help with insurance claims. Secure cash and jewelry in bonded storage.

### **Getting Involved**

Know who belongs in your neighborhood and report suspicious persons immediately. Be alert in protecting not only your home but your neighbors as well. Don't tell a stranger that your neighbor is not at home or volunteer any personal information about your neighbor. Never leave notes on your door that reveal that your home is not occupied. Join a neighborhood watch group. If there is not one in your neighborhood start one. Help keep your neighborhood clean.

### **Alarm Systems**

Choose a reputable, well established company. Learn how to use your alarm system properly to reduce false alarms. Fines can be assessed for excessive false alarms. Do not write your alarm code/password on or near the alarm keypad. Put a warning sign on windows and entrances. Make sure your alarm call back list is always up to date.

### **Additional Information**

- ★ Acknowledge all callers through locked doors.
- ★ Keep doors, windows and garage doors closed and locked even when at home.
- ★ Before moving into a new house or apartment, re-key or change the locks on all exterior doors, also change the code to your garage door opener.
- ★ Draw all curtains or shades at night to prevent viewing from the street.
- ★ Never leave a house key in an obvious place such as a mailbox, under plants or a doormat.

### **Doors and Windows**

All exterior doors should be solid core or of metal construction. All entry doors should be equipped with a good quality deadbolt lock having a minimum of a one inch throw. A good quality double cylinder deadbolt lock should be used if there is glass within 40 inches of the lock. If using a double cylinder deadbolt lock, make sure a key is readily accessible in case of an emergency. Use a heavy duty strike plate secured with number 12 gauge three-inch wood screws. All exit doors with outside hinges should have their hinges pinned. Install a peephole with at least a 180-degree viewing area. Secure all sliding glass doors with an anti-lifting device and a secondary locking device. Windows have latches and not locks, therefore, install secondary locking devices on all windows.

## **Exterior and Landscape**

Install lights in areas around doors, walkways, and driveways. Locate outside lights high and out of reach. Use inexpensive timers or photo electric cells to automatically turn the lights on and off at dusk and dawn. Trim shrubbery and trees so doors and windows are visible from the street. If there is a second floor, prune the trees so that a thief cannot use them to reach a second floor window.

To discourage an intruder, plant thorny hostile plants along fences and near windows. A good fence should not block visibility. Do not leave ladders or tools outside; they can assist a person in gaining entry. Gates on fenced yards should be locked with good quality padlocks. Install large reflective numbers (minimum 3 inches) on your house and mailbox so police and other emergency personnel can find your home quickly.

Visit the HPD website [www.houstontx.gov/police/crime\\_prevention](http://www.houstontx.gov/police/crime_prevention) for more crime prevention tips.

## **Jaycee Park Tree Planting**

Friends of Jaycee Park, Trees for Houston and City of Houston's Urban Forestry will have a tree planting to beautify Jaycee Park. Trees for Houston will coordinate the planting, supply shovels and gloves while Urban Forestry will donate roughly 150 trees for planting. Interested volunteers should RSVP to Ileana Desalos at [friendsofjayceepark@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofjayceepark@yahoo.com).

**When:** Saturday, February 27, 2010 8:00 a.m. (rain or shine)

**Where:** Jaycee Park, 1300 Seamist, Houston, Texas 77008

For more information about Trees for Houston visit [www.treesforhouston.org](http://www.treesforhouston.org).

For more information on Friends of Jaycee Park visit [www.houstonparksboard.org/projects/JayceePark.php](http://www.houstonparksboard.org/projects/JayceePark.php).

## **The City of Houston Term Limits Review Commission**

invites you to an open session for public input  
concerning term limits for

**Houston's Mayor, City Controller and City Council**

Saturday, February 27, 2010  
10:30 a.m.

Judson Robinson, Jr. Community Center  
2020 Hermann Drive  
Houston, Texas 77004

The City of Houston Term Limits Review Commission, chaired by Ambassador Arthur Schechter, requests input from the public on term limits for the City of Houston's Mayor, City Controller and City Council. The Commission will consider the merits of various possible revisions to length of terms, number of terms and whether terms are to be staggered. However, by City Ordinance, the Commission may not recommend the abolition of term limits. The

Commission is to make a recommendation to the Mayor and Houston City Council by July 1, 2010.

For more information and/or to submit written comments, email [termlimitsreview@cityofhouston.net](mailto:termlimitsreview@cityofhouston.net).

### **City of Houston Small Business Workshops**

The City of Houston's One Stop Business Center, in partnership with Service Corps of Retired Executives (S.C.O.R.E.) and Houston Public Library's Careers, Opportunities, Resources, and Education (C.O.R.E.) Center, will present two 1.5 hour workshops on the rules and regulations which govern the operation of small businesses in Houston.

If you are thinking about starting your own business or are an established small business owner, these FREE workshops are for you.

#### **Monday, February 22, 2010**

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Acres Homes Neighborhood Library  
8501 W. Montgomery  
Houston, Texas 77088  
832) 393-1700

#### **Thursday, March 11, 2010**

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

McCrane-Kashmere Gardens Neighborhood Library  
5411 Pardee Street  
Houston, Texas 77026  
832) 393-2450

For more information contact the One Stop Business Center at 832) 393-0954 or [www.houstontx.gov/onestop/index.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/onestop/index.html).

### **Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program**

The Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) may be able to help those who are behind on rent and facing eviction or living with someone with no permanent place to stay.

The objective of the HPRP funds is to provide homelessness prevention assistance to households who would otherwise become homeless and to provide assistance to rapidly re-house persons who are homeless. Certain eligibility requirements apply including commitment to work toward self-sufficiency and certain income limits.

Visit [www.houstontx.gov/housing/rfp.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/housing/rfp.html) more information about this program or call 713) 794-9999.

## Veterans Rental Assistance Program

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs offers a Veterans Rental Assistance Program for veterans and their family including security/utility deposits to assist households in paying full rental costs at the end of a 12-month period.

Certain eligibility requirements apply for those interested in the program or for more information please call Joycelyn Rio at 832) 203-1626 ext. 108, by email at [jrios@usvetsinc.org](mailto:jrios@usvetsinc.org) or visit <http://usvetsinc.org>.

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## District A Highlight

Congratulations to St. Mark Lutheran School's Boys Varsity Basketball team for winning 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Texas State Lutheran Division 1 Championship Basketball Tournament.

The victory gives St. Mark Lutheran Boys their first state championship in the 24 year history of the Texas Lutheran Basketball Tournament. Visit [www.stmarkhouston.org](http://www.stmarkhouston.org) to learn more about St. Mark Lutheran School.

***Building a stronger sense of community.***